

PRESS RELEASE LIVESTOCK REPORT



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1220 SW 3rd Ave., Room 1735
Portland, OR 97204

Oregon Sheep down 18 Percent

Sheep and lambs in Oregon on January 1, 2003, totaled 235,000 head, a decrease of 50,000 head from last year, according to the Oregon Agricultural Statistics Service (OASS). Oregon sheep inventory had increased the previous two years, when inventories were 245,000 and 285,000, respectively.

The largest decrease was in total market sheep and lambs, down 36,000 head to 78,000. Replacement lambs decreased 4,000 head to 25,000, and ewes decreased 9,000 head to 125,000 head.

Total Sheep and Lamb Inventory Down 5 Percent

All sheep and lamb inventory in the United States on January 1, 2003, totaled 6.35 million head, down 5 percent from 2002 and 9 percent below two years ago. The inventory has trended down since peaking at 56.2 million head in 1942.

Breeding sheep inventory declined to 4.68 million head on January 1, 2003, down 5 percent from 4.91 million head on January 1, 2002. Ewes one year old and older, at 3.79 million head, were 5 percent below last year.

Market sheep and lambs on January 1, 2003, totaled 1.67 million head, down 6 percent from January 1, 2002. Market lambs comprised 96 percent of the total. Twenty-six percent were lambs under 65 pounds, 17 percent were 65 - 84 pounds, 24 percent 85 - 105 pounds, 29 percent were over 105 pounds, and 4 percent were market sheep.

The 2001 lamb crop of 4.36 million head was down 3 percent from 2001 and established a new record low. The 2002 lambing rate was 110 per 100 ewes one year old and older on January 1, 2002, unchanged from 2001.

The number of operations with sheep during 2002 totaled 64,170, down 1 percent from 2001 and 3 percent from 2000.

Shorn wool production in the United States during 2002 was 41.2 million pounds, down 4 percent from 2001. Sheep and lambs shorn totaled 5.45 million head, down 4 percent from 2001. The average price paid for wool sold in 2002 was \$0.53 per pound for a total value of \$21.8 million, up 42 percent from \$15.3 million in 2001.

Sheep: Selected Western States, January 1, 2003

State	All sheep			Total breeding sheep & Lambs	Breeding ewes 1 year +	2002 Lamb crop	Total market sheep & lambs
	2002	2003	<u>2003</u> 2002				
	<i>1,000 head</i>	<i>1,000 head</i>	<i>Percent</i>	<i>1,000 head</i>	<i>1,000 head</i>	<i>1,000 head</i>	<i>1,000 head</i>
California	800	790	99	355	295	285	435
Idaho	260	260	100	225	184	240	35
Montana	335	300	90	270	213	315	30
Oregon	285	235	82	157	125	150	78
Washington	56	51	91	42	34	56	9
U.S.	6,685	6,350	95	4,682	3,789	4,360	1,668

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